

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCT-01
/091 W

-----042706 071812Z /53

O R 071655Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7073
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 696

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VISIT TO WINDHOEK OF AMB. MCHENRY

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY
POLCON VISITED WINDHOEK APRIL 4-6 WHERE HE HELD TALKS WITH
AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.
AR AIR OF TENSION AND EXPECTATION WAS PERVASIVE. THE
CHURCHMEN WHOSE CONGREGATIONS REPRESENT THE GREAT
MAJORITY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ARE PREPARED TO
PUBLICLY ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL. THE NNF IS LIKELY TO
SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL ALSO BUT THERE MAY BE SOME
RESERVATIONS. THE DTA MIGHT CONCEIVABLY ACCEPT IN
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PRINCIPLE BUT ON CONDITION THAT THE RESIDUAL TROOP
PROVISION BE ALTERED. DIRK MUDGE AND THE A-G BOTH
EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO MOVE DECISIVELY; NEXT WEEK BAY
SEE A SAG ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "TARGET DATE" FOR ELECTIONS
AND NEW SECURITY MEASURES IN THE TERRITORY POSSIBLY ACCOMPANIED
BY A QUALIFIED POSITION ON THE PROPOSAL. A NUMBER OF SWAPO
MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH KAPUUS

ASSASSINATION. STEYN SEEMED TO BE A MAN OF GOOD WILL BUT DID NOT DISPLAY MUCH DEPTH ON POLITICAL DYNAMICS. END SUMMARY.

2. ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN SAID HE WAS CONDUCTING HIS FINAL SOUNDINGS ON VIEWS TOWARD THE PROPOSALS AND THAT THESE WOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK. STEYN DWELLED ON INCREASED TENSION IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE DANGER OF COMMUNAL STRIFE SINCE THE SHOOTING OF KAPUWO. ONE MORE PROMINENT ASSASSINATION, HE SAID, AND "IT WOULD BE GOODBYE." HE INDICATED THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION WAS MAKING PROGRESS. SOME "STUPID ACTIONS" OF THOSE INVOLVED, HE STATED, HAD OPENED UP THE CASE. STEYN DID NOT MENTION THE DETENTION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF SWAPO MEMBERS IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS INCLUDING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SECRETARY-GENERAL MEMBER AXEL JOHANNES. STEYN COULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, BUT FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO BRING ABOUT PEACE AND HARMONY. HE APPEARED TO BE A MAN OF GOOD WILL BUT WITH LIMITED DEPTH IN POLITICAL DYNAMICS.

3. UNFORTUNATELY BISHOP DE VRIES WAS OUT OF TOWN AND BISHOP KOPPMAN WAS UNABLE TO COME TO THE ARRANGED MEETING. REV. MORROW AND PASTOR SHIPENA, SECRETARY TO BISHOP AUALA, HOWEVER, SAID THEY COULD SPEAK FOR THEIR COLLEAGUES AND WERE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO ISSUING SOON A STATEMENT OF CLEAR AND STRONG CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN PROPOSALS. REV. MORROW ASKED WHETHER ONE OF THE CHURCHMEN MIGHT GO TO NEW YORK TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SAID THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. LATER IN A PHONE CONVERSATION, DE VRIES TOLD MCHENRY THAT THE DECLARATION OF SUPPORT HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP.

4. THE NNF LEADERS FOCUSED ON THEIR CONCERN ABOUT AHTASSAARI'S IMPARTIALITY. THEY REFERRED TO HIS REFUSAL TO MEET WITH THEM IN NEW YORK AND TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA WITH ITS RECENT DECLARATION IN LUSAKA. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY EXPLAINED THAT AHTASSAARI WAS AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT WHO WAS COMPELLED TO OPERATE UNDER HIS PRESENT MANDATE AS COMMISSIONER FOR THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA. WHEN AHTASSAARI ASSUMED HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS UNSR, MCHENRY SAID, HE WOULD BE OPERATING UNDER A DIFFERENT MANDATE AND IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL CONTEXT. MCHENRY UNDERSCORED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RECENT STATEMENT STRESSING THAT THE UN OPERATION IN NAMIBIA WOULD BE DIRECTED AT CARRYING OUT AN IMPARTIAL ELECTION WITHOUT FAVOR TO ANY PARTY. O'LINN AND

KIRKPATRICK, LEADERS OF THE FEDERAL PARTY COMONENT
OF THE NNF, APPEARED TO BE MOLLIFIED. THEY INDICATED
THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL
AT THE COMING NNF MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 8.
GERSON VEII, HEAD OF THE SWANU COMPONENT OF THE NNF
(AND NNF PRESIDENT), IN A SEPARATE MEETING, ALSO
APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE POINTS THAT MCHENRY MADE ABOUT
AHTASAARI, BUT WAS PERHAPS LESS CONVINCED THAT O'LINN
AND KIRKPATRICK. VEII REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE
PROPOSAL BUT SAID THAT THE NNF DECISION WOULD BE MADE
AT THE APRIL 8 MEETING. MCHENRY UNDERSCORED TO ALL
THE NNF LEADERS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING AS STRONG AS
POSSIBLE IN THEIR ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL,
WARNING THAT THE SAG WOULD SEIZE UPON ANY QUALIFICATIONS
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THAT THE PARTY MIGHT APPEND TO ITS ENDORSEMENT.

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INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCT-01
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O R 071655Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7074

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 696

5. THE TOP LEADERS OF INTERNAL SWAPO, AS REPORTED EARLIER (CAPE TOWN 641), LEFT THE TERRITORY LAST WEEK, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR FEAR OF ASSASSINATION OR OF DETENTION. MILNER TLHANBANELLO, WE WERE TOLD, HAD GONE TO LUSAKA TO GIVE A SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY, BUT IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN SWAPO'S CONSIDERATION OF ITS POSITION ON THE FINAL PROPOSAL. MCHENRY TALKED WITH SWAPO SECRETARY OF LABOR JASON ANGULA WHO CLAIMED THAT ABOUT A HUNDRED SWAPO MEMBERS HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY THE POLICE SINCE KAPUUNO'S DEATH. ANGULA SHOWED A LIST OF ABOUT TWENTY NAMES INCLUDING SOME FROM AREAS OUTSIDE WINDHOEK; APPROXIMATELY HALF WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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MARKED AS HAVING BEEN RELEASED. ANGULA IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL FOCUSED ON THE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY.

6. DIRK MUDGE WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT HIS POSITION ON THE PROPOSALS, BUT HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD STILL TO BE CONVINCED. MUDGE STRESSED THAT HE WAS FOR FREE ELECTIONS BUT AS A POLITICIAN ALSO WANTED TO WIN THE ELECTIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE PULL-BACK OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES CALLED FOR IN THE PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE A PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT IN OVAMBO AND IN OTHER NORTHERN AREAS THAT WOULD GIVE THE ELECTION TO SWAPO. MUDGE, LIKE THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, UNDERSCORED THE SERIOUS TENSION IN THE TERRITORY SINCE KAPUUNO'S DEATH. MUDGE CLAIMED CREDIT FOR KEEPING THE HEREROS UNDER CONTROL IN THE PAST WEEK BUT HE SAID THEY WERE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE SOON. SEVERAL TIMES MUDGE REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT BE THE NEXT VICTIM, NOTING THAT HE COULD BE SHOT BY A WHITE EXTREMIST AS WELL AS A BLACK. MUDGE SAID THAT THE DTA WOULD BE HOLDING A MEETING ON APRIL 10 AFTER KAPUUNO'S FUNERAL ON THE PREVIOUS DAY AND THAT ON APRIL 12 HE WOULD HEAD A DTA DELEGATION WHICH WOULD PRESENT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN CAPE TOWN. MUDGE LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD POSSIBLY FAVOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE CONTINGENT UPON MODIFICATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE RESIDUAL TROOPS. MUDGE EMPHASIZED THAT IN ANY EVENT, DECISIVE ACTION TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNAL PEACE HAD TO BE TAKEN SOON.

7. THE DTA SEEMED TO BE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION. NO ONE SEEMED TO HAVE ANY CLEAR IDEA AS TO WHO MIGHT

REPLACE KAPUUO EITHER AS CHIEF OF THE HEREROS OR AS
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PRESIDENT OF THE DTA. MUDGE LAMENTED THAT THERE WAS
NO ONE OF STATURE WHO COULD REPLACE KAPUUO. MUDGE SAID THAT IF HE
HIMSELF WERE KILLED, THE DTA WOULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

8. THE EDITOR OF THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, HANIUS
SMITH, TOLD US THAT THE OWNER OF THE ADVERTISER JOHN MEINERT
HAD SOLD BOTH THE ADVERTISER AND THE ALLEGMEINE ZEITUNG
AS WELL AS THE COMPANY'S JOINT PRINTING FACTORY TO
THE DTA ON APRIL 5. SMITH SAID THAT KURT DAHLMANN, EDITOR
OF ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO WINDHOEK HAVING
OBTAINED COMMITMENTS FOR ENOUGH FUNDS TO MEET THE DTA BID.
BUT, SMITH SAID, MEINERT SUSPECTED THE SOURCE OF
DAHLMANN'S FUNDS--THERE WERE RUMORS THAT DAHLMANN
HAD TALKED TO SWAPO AND THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN
EUROPE--AND THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO SELL TO MUDGE.
SMITH SAID THAT BOTH HE AND DAHLMANN WOULD HAVE TO
LEAVE THEIR JOBS. AMONG OTHER TIDBITS, SMITH CLAIMED
THAT CONSOLIDATED DIAMONG WAS NOT EMPLOYING THREE SHIFTS
RATHER THAN THE NORMAL ONE IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRODUCTION
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

9. EBEN VAN ZIJL OF AKTUR WAS AS EXPECTED TOTALLY
NEGATIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. A GROUP OF OFFICIALS
FROM THE SOUTH WEST BLACK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
APPEARED GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PLAN, BUT
ARGUED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF NAMIBIA'S CLAIM TO WALVIS
BAY. THE TEACHERS INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT FEEL
THEY COULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITION.

10. SINCE PREPARATION OF THIS MESSAGE, THE GERMAN
AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED US THAT WINDHOEK'S TWO
INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN
SOLD AND THAT KURT DAHLMANN IS CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS
IN AN ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE THEM FROM HIS PUBLISHER.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PORG, WA, (MCHENRY, DONALD)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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